

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 /040 W

----- 091338

R 231835Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8958

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

SCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: FLEXIBILITY STUDY

REF: A. USNATO 4596

B. MCM-79-74

SACEUR'S REPORT ON STUDY OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE CENTRAL
REGION EUROPE WAS APPROVED BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN
MCM-79-74. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE MISSION INTENDS
TO APPROVE SACEUR'S STATUS REPORT IN THE DPC ON NOV 26.
TEXT OF REPORT QUOTE BELOW. BEGIN:

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SHAPE FLEXIBILITY STUDY

BACKGROUND

1. (NC) IN OCTOBER 1973 SACEUR, IN A LETTER TO THE US
SECRETARY OF DEFENCE, RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE LACK OF FLEX-
IBILITY OF NATO FORCES. IN THE JUNE 1974 DPC MINISTERIAL
MEETING THE US SECRETARY OF DEFENCE PROPOSED THAT SACEUR
CONFIDENTIAL

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CARRY OUT A STUDY ON FLEXIBILITY OF NATO FORCES. THIS PRO-
POSAL WAS FURTHER DETAILED IN A LETTER FROM THE US MISSION
TO NATO TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL IN JUL 1974.

2. (NR) IN AUGUST 1974 THE ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL

CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS OF THE DPC A PROPOSAL THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE INVITE SACEUR TO UNDERTAKE THE FLEXIBILITY STUDY. THIS WAS AGREED AND ON 1 OCTOBER 1974 SACEUR RECEIVED THE FORMAL INVITATION FROM THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. A COPY IS ENCLOSED.

STATUS

3. (NC) TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE PROPOSED IN THE US MISSION LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, TAKING NOTE OF THE POINT THAT THE STUDY SHOULD COVER ALL FORCES WHICH MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE FOR THE DEFENCE OF CENTRAL REGION, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE FORMALLY COMMITTED TO THE ALLIANCE. A SUMMARY OF THE TOR IS ATTACHED AT ANNEX A TO THIS REPORT. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE STUDY IS RESTRICTED INITIALLY TO THE CENTRAL REGION.

4. (NR) THE STUDY IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY A WORKING GROUP DRAWN FROM THE SHAPE STAFF TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM SUBORDINATE COMMANDS IN THE CENTRAL REGION. TO AVOID DUPLICATION AN INITIAL TASK OF THE GROUP IS TO IDENTIFY OTHER NATO AND NATIONAL STUDIES, ANALYSES, AND EXAMINATIONS AS WELL AS ONGOING NATO ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO THIS EFFORT.

5. () THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE STUDY IS DIVIDED INTO THREE PHASES WHICH COVER THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE STUDY:

A. PHASE I. THE EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT POSITION. WORK IN THIS AREA HAS ALREADY COMMENCED.

B. PHASE II. THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CONSTRAINING FACTORS AND LIMITATIONS.

C. PHASE III. THE PROPOSING OF ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN.

6. (NC) STRONG EMPHASIS IS BEING PLACED ON THIS STUDY; AND A TIGHT BUT REALISTIC TIME FRAME HAS BEEN IMPOSED. EVEN SO THE HOPE EXPRESSED THAT A REPORT OF SUBSTANCE SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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BE AVAILABLE FOR THE DECEMBER 1974 MINISTERIAL DPC MEETING CANNOT BE REALIZED. NO SPECIFIC STUDY HAS BEEN DONE PREVIOUSLY TO ADDRESS THE ALL EMBRACING SUBJECT OF THE FLEXIBILITY OF NATO FORCES, ALTHOUGH RELATED STUDIES SUCH AS THE STUDY ON AIR REORGANISATION IN THE CENTRAL REGION, A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO IMPROVE THE LOGISTIC POSTURE IN ACE, AND A STUDY ON MAL-DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES, TO NAME A FEW, HAVE BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR SOME TIME OR PREVIOUSLY BEEN COMPLETED. IT IS EXPECTED THAT SHAPE WILL PROVIDE A REPORT OF SUBSTANCE FOR THE SPRING 1975 MINISTERIAL DPC MEETING WITH A FINAL REPORT FOR THE WINTER 1975 MEETING

ANNEX A

TERMS OF REFERENCE

FOR THE STUDY OF
FLEXIBILITY OF NATO FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION

OBJECTIVE:

1. (NU) THE STUDY IS TO IDENTIFY THE CONSTRAINING FACTORS AND LIMITATIONS WHICH MILITATE AGAINST FULL EFFECTIVENESS IN THE USE OF EXISTING LAND AND AIR FORCES AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE CENTRAL REGION AND TO PROPOSE IMMEDIATE AND LONGER TERM ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE THESE CONSTRAINING FACTORS AND LIMITATIONS.

GENERAL:

2. (NC) ALL ASPECTS OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF LAND AND AIR FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, REINFORCEMENT PLANNING, LOGISTICS, STANDARDISATION, COMMAND AND CONTROL, COMMON SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES, ADP, COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPORT FROM THE CIVIL SECTOR.

3. (NC) EMPHASIS IS TO BE PLACED ON OBTAINING THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM LAND AND AIR FORCES WHICH MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE DEFENCE OF THE CENTRAL REGION, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ORIGINATE IN THE CENTRAL REGION OR ARE FORMALLY COMMITTED TO NATO. REINFORCEMENTS FROM OVERSEAS AND FROM ADJACENT ACE REGIONS, AS WELL AS INTRA-GIONAL REINFORCEMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

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CEMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

4. (NC) EVEN THOUGH THE STUDY WILL INITIALLY BE RESTRICTED TO THE CENTRAL REGION DUE NOTE IS TO BE TAKEN OF THE THREAT TO THE ADJOINING REGIONS AND THE ACE FORCES CURRENTLY ALLOTTED TO THEIR DEFENCE.

5. (NC) THE TIME FRAME TO BE CONSIDERED IS 1975-1985. THE THREAT CONSIDERED IS TO BE THAT DETAILED IN MC DOCUMENTS 224/74 AND 161/74 AND ACE FORCES ARE TO BE THOSE DETAILED IN NATO FORCE PLANS 1975-79 (STATISTICAL ANNEXES). HOWEVER, THE STUDY SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER FORCES THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE AS INDICATED IN THE MC SSG CONVENTIONAL BALANCE STUDY DATA BASE.

6. (NC) A PROGRESS REPORT IS REQUIRED BY THE DPC IN DECEMBER 1974, A FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE REPORT FOR THE SPRING 75 MEETING, WITH A FINAL REPORT BY THE END OF 1975.

SPECIFIC GUIDANCE:

7. (NR) THE STUDY WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PHASES:
A. PHASE I. THE EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT POSITION.
B. PHASE II. THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CONSTRAINING FACTORS AND LIMITATIONS.
C. PHASE III. THE PROPOSING OF ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN.

END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO06532
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741185/abbryyra.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. USNATO 4596 B. MCM-79-74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FLEXIBILITY STUDY
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE
SCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

